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Al-Qadhdhafi Lectures University Students 21 Jun
LD221449 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1958 GMT 21 Jun 87

["Lecture" by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to students at unidentified Libyan university on 21 June — recorded]

[Excerpts][passage omitted] Yesterday's lecture was a resume of the preceding one. Therefore, it became a lecture in itself, and today we shall talk about its review. It was, however, a resume of the lecture that preceded it — the one we delivered at the end of Ramadan.

The first point is that there is a real danger to the continued existence of the Arabs; the very Arabs who are the subject of this catastrophe are apathetic themselves. I feel that if the Arab destiny comes to an end, then Africa's progressive and Islamic peoples, as well as other Muslims around the Arab homeland, will [word indistinct]. Even if the Arabs are now at war with certain other countries -- such as Iran and Iraq and Turkey, since NATO is in Turkey -- which are hostile to the Arabs; the war in Chad; Ethiopia, which has problems with Sudan and is at war with Somalia, despite the existence of problems between the Arabs and their Muslim and non-Muslim neighbors, the end of the Arabs will lead to the end of these states too.

If the Arabs come to an end, then so will Iran, since the Arabs constitute a shield and a very important balance for the survival of the Iranian state. Iran should not believe that it would remain free and on the map were the Arab nation to disappear. The same can be said of Ethiopia — it would disappear if the Arab nation disappeared. As a result, Ethiopia, Iran, and possibly Turkey, as well as a group of small African states — particularly those that are predominantly Islamic — would disappear if the Arab nation disappears. What I mean to say is that there is a real danger but no one seems to be aware of it. An attempt is being made to preoccupy the Arabs and to deceive them so that they will not be aware of this catastrophe. [passage omitted]

The current Arab rulers and regimes in the Arab homeland are in a conspiracy with their masters, who want to seize and dominate this homeland. The allegations that Italy will not return to Libya, or the French to Algeria, or the British to Egypt and Sudan should not be believed. You should never believe such talk. The struggle between us and them continues. How many times have we fought battles against them during the last 100, 200, or 300 years, and how many times have we found ourselves fighting them again? Look at the struggle between Carthage, which was regarded as the Arab capital of the time on the Mediterranean's southern shore, and Rome, the capital of the Romans, on the other shore. The battles between them went on for hundreds of years. There may be no fighting for 100 years — that is to say, three generations without war — only for the fighting to resume once again after that. The fighting continued until Rome was able to capture Carthage and demolish it. However, the fighting began again and Rome once again returned and occupied Libya. Its plan was to occupy Carthage, which is now Tunis, once again. However, it had been captured by the French. Italy had its eye on the entire region — Tunisia and Libya. It intended to seize North Africa down to Ethiopia and Somalia. In fact, it reached this area. But the French and

the British took the parts that they wanted. Here it is on the map — Italy, the nearest state to this area — to Tunisia; it is the closest European country.

The European industrial states now constitute a real danger to the underdeveloped world. The Arab homeland will face the first danger in the future, as these industrial countries will invade and occupy it in order to make it a consumer market for their goods and to procure the raw materials they need to produce them. They will occupy the Arab homeland in order to release the pressure there. Even where tourism is concerned, the Europeans need the sun and these ocean shores; that is to say, the Europeans need to occupy these areas even for recreation. They are preparing to do just that. The occupation is inevitable. They plan to keep this homeland backward. They believe that the Arabs should not be allowed to grow powerful or their region to become a high pressure area.

They hope to expand at the expense of the Arab homeland. What is the answer? Now that we have outlined the problem, which is truly serious, that is what we intend to discuss today. This problem allowed us to understand why it is impossible for industries to be established in the Arab homeland. It also permitted us to understand why trivial rulers have succeeded and lived long lives in the Arab homeland, why very comical regimes were created there, why revolutions were aborted, and why serious forces disappeared. In addition, it let us know the secret behind the resolve to strike at the Jamahiriya or the Palestinian resistance or Syria, and so on, even the Iran-Iraq war, the conflict in Chad, and southern Sudan. We understand the reason behind them all. Colonialism may be industrial colonialism now, but it will use military means to attain its industrial aims.

If we follow European military activity, we will see how interested the Europeans are, as though World War I or World War II were still going on. If you follow the joint military exercises staged by the European powers and the United States around the world, you would think that war would break out tomorrow, or that we were in the middle of such a conflict. Their official political activity is totally different from the popular climate prevailing in those countries: such as human rights, peace, democracy, humanity, and civilization. These are all empty words. They are military states preparing themselves daily by having a fearsome military force. They carry out training that costs millions; they hold maneuvers. They continue their preparations. They consider themselves at war, meaning that they should attack those areas where there is a vacuum, such as the Arab homeland. In 100 years at the latest, the world map will definitely be different. This is due to climatic reasons, and then to political and military ones. If we talk about 100 years, someone may say that this is a long time. What do you mean by a long time? Hundreds of years have passed since the Crusades, the Arabs' departure from Andalusia, and so on. [passage omitted]

The first step in a solution which, despite the fact that it contradicts a number of requirements, is essential for survival is to increase the Arab homeland's population. The Arab race should grow and reach the 1 billion mark as soon as possible. Naturally, I know that this runs counter to wealth, the economy, and prosperity. However, the prosperous life and the economy that we are talking about will, with a population of 150 million, lead

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to our colonization. Then we will live an unhappy life and be the slaves of the colonialists. We have no alternative but to ensure a limitless population for the Arab homeland. All family planning measures currently in force in the Arab countries should be abolished. After all, these measures came to us from Europe, which occupies a small area with states desiring a fixed population. However, we are facing danger. The number of Arabs should be 1 billion, just like China. [passage omitted] All measures on family planning in the Arab homeland should be revoked. The political view should overcome the economic view. Decisions should be made in the Arab homeland to fight any measure on family planning. All pharmacies and doctors practicing family planning should be banned. [passage omitted] We should reach the billion mark quickly; otherwise, the Arab nation will come to an end. The Arabs as a race will wind up like the Red Indians. They will become a scattered and homeless people, with some living in Turkey, and others in Iran, Africa, and so on. [passage omitted]

The fertile area in the Arab homeland is now in southern Sudan. This is the only part of the Arab homeland with summer rains and rivers. This is in addition to the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, where there is also summer rainfall. Rains fall on the southern part of the Arabian peninsula — Yemen and some sections of Saudi Arabia. However, summer rainfall there is sparse.

The southern Sudan is the most fertile area in the Arab homeland. This is because the area falls under the plan we spoke of. At the same time, the conflict proves the theory that the goal is to capture the Arab homeland's water resources and deprive the Arab race of water. When I addressed the Sudanese revolutionary committees, I told them that the word Anyanya — the movement which was established under the name of Anyanya I or Anyanya II, and may now even be Anyanya III — refers to a poisonous insect. In short, they are planting a poisonous insect in the south of the Arab homeland so that this bug will eat it. The name Anyanya was chosen for its meaning. I told them that as long as the southern Sudan is the most fertile part of the Arab homeland, it will be of interest to all Arabs and should not be compromised. In his political theory, Garang claims that he wants to liberate all of the Sudan in order to establish a revolutionary progressive country. He denies that he is a secessionist. But Anyanya I and Anyanya II are secessionist movements seeking to split off southern Sudan. What we want is to talk about the vitality of this area without going into great detail, and, ultimately, to be able to explain the nature of the conflict going on there.

We did the same thing with the clash in the Syrian area, which they call the Middle East, between the Israelis and the Americans on one side, and the Arabs on the other. The Syrian area is vital, and the Israelis and the Americans want to expel the Arabs from it, for it has a network of rivers, which we have discussed. Some of these rivers have been captured by the Israelis. We said that we should not believe what they say — that the conflict is a fight against terrorists, and so on. Their goal is to capture water resources and deny them to the Arabs. Therefore, southern Sudan should be secured and relied upon, because it is an area which can support a large population.

The other point is that we should take this area into close consideration — Ethiopia, and the area it comprises. We have already said that if the Arab homeland comes to an end, then Ethiopia will come to an end. All those nations — Uganda, Kenya, Chad, Niger, Mali, Senegal, and a number of others, especially those with Muslims among their people — will be finished. If the Arab homeland and the Arabs come to an end, these states may be finished as well. They will have no one to defend them; they will have no support. The gap will be filled by hostile forces. Among the states that will be affected — the areas that will be affected — for good or ill by conditions in the Arab homeland will be Ethiopia. As we can see on the map, Ethiopia is surrounded by Arab countries. [Al-Qadhdhafi points to map] This is Somalia, to the south and east of Ethiopia, and this is Djibouti, to the north or northwest. There is a movement for the liberation of Eritrea. This is Eritrea; the people of Eritrea are considered to be Arabs and many Arab states help them for this reason. But the Arab race is not present solely in Eritrea. The Arabs are found throughout Ethiopia.

Therefore, Ethiopia or Abyssinia — I am referring to the word — means mixed races; this shows that it has mixed races. Arab migrants from Yemen settled there in ancient times. It could have been a country like the Sudan or Somalia, an Arab state. But it appears that the presence of an Amharic race led to the creation of this state. There are Arabs in every province of Ethiopia. With Eritrea in the area, the whole of northern Ethiopia appears to be Arab. Ethiopia is surrounded by Arabs. You have also heard about the movement that sought to detach the Ogaden. This is the Ogaden, the entire province in which there was a movement that saw itself as Somali. Somalia is an Arab state. Here is the Sudan — it is Arab. Here is Somalia, which is also Arab. See how Ethiopia is surrounded by Arabs. What I mean to say is that the situation is not ordinary; relations with Ethiopia are not like relations with Iran; there is no separation. Ethiopia is located in the middle of the Arab homeland. Thus, it is affected by the situation. Haile Selassie used to harass Arab nationalism. The Americans used him against these areas where there were Arabs, such as Bab al-Mandib, and so on.

However, the answer is not hostility toward Ethiopia or Ethiopian hostility toward the Arabs. Ethiopia should not encourage any secessionist movements in southern Sudan, Somalia, or anywhere else, and the Arabs should do the same. Otherwise, hostility will be mutual. This would lead to a change in the entire map. Ethiopia may be divided; Somalia and southern Sudan may be divided. After all, there are secessionist or revolutionary movements — call them what you will — in these countries. They are two sides of the coin. The Ethiopian highlands are very rich in water; it rains all the time, and there are many rivers and lakes. This area can support a large population. Thus, it is inevitable that we would think to exploit the area from Somalia to Ethiopia to Sudan and the Nile Valley from the Arab and Ethiopian points of view. The area should be exploited in the interests of mankind there.

Do you understand? The area extending from Somalia to Sudan through Ethiopia is a vital part of the Arab world. The future of Ethiopians and Arabs in this area should be secured, and we are placing great hopes on this. This area is in addition to the region where they planted the Israelis — the Syrian coast. It is an area

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with rainfall and rivers; rivers also originate in this area. You can see that this is the only Arab area where rivers originate; it is the Syria area. They planted the Israelis there. Their goal is to deprive the Arabs of this vital region.

Therefore, it is inevitable that we should liberate Palestine and put an end to the Zionist entity, the sponge they have placed in this area to absorb the waters of this vital zone. The Tigris and Euphrates originate in Turkey; this means the rains fall on Anatolia and form these two rivers. The Nile originates in the African lakes and southern Sudan. But the Syrian area — the Yarmuk, Litani, Asi, and Jordan Rivers — is the only area which has rivers drawn from Arab sources. The West is determined that their cat's-paw and bridgehead, which is called Israel, should take this area and kill the Arabs there; deliberate, premeditated mass murder with aircraft, gas, tanks, and so on. They have decided to kill the Arabs in the Syrian area in order to take that rich place from them. After all, it is an artery that must be denied to the Arab nation. One half of the fertile crescent is the Syrian area; the other half is Iraq. Together they form the shape of a crescent. They want to deprive the Arabs of the fertile crescent. They may get Turkey to stop the flow of the Tigris and Euphrates. There are problems with this, especially where the Euphrates is concerned, between Syria and Turkey. Turkey may stop the flow of these waters. 'Abd al-Nasir tried to build a dam on the Euphrates during the era of unity between Egypt and Syria. [Unidentified person reminds Al-Qadhdhafi that there is a dam on the Euphrates in Turkey] Yes, yes, there is a dam in Turkey limiting the flow of the Euphrates. I know that there is a serious problem between Syria and Turkey over limits on the flow of water from its sources.

The other political point is that we should transform our nation into a state, not vice versa. Somalia is a state; Djibouti, which you can only see under the microscope, is a state; here is Yemen, with its two parts; this is where the donkeys are tied up. [Al-Qadhdhafi points to Oman on the map] Here are the dwarf states of the Gulf and here are the others. They are all states, and we see them in terms of a nation; this kills the nation. If states have become an expression of a nation, that kills the nation. Why? Because the state, and not the nation, becomes the focus of attention. This means that Somalia will look after itself and another state will be interested in itself; one will go to the East and another will go to the West; this one will become a lackey; this one will oppose the other; and so on. The nation will be torn asunder.

The expression of a nation in terms of states is at the expense of the nation. After all, these states will replace the nation; there will be enthusiasm and zeal for the state and not for the nation. Now we are raising the flag and talking enthusiastically about pan-Arabism and the need to defend it. However, these are but words. Each one of us is enthusiastic about his own country. One is enthusiastic about his country's government, and another about his country's president or monarchy. One follows France and one follows the United States. They express the nation in terms of states, and herein lies the danger. The nation should be turned into a state. This point is very important politically, and you should be aware of it. Iran is a nation and a state; the Israelis have a state and a nation; Turkey is a state and a nation; maybe Ethiopia is a state and nation as well. The

Americans, the Italians, and the others are all states and nations. France is a state and nation. Why did they divide Germany? They want to put an end to this idea. They create states instead of a nation — West Germany, East Germany, Federal Germany, Democratic Germany — everyone calls them something different.

After World War II, the four major powers wanted to put an end to German efficiency so that it would no longer be a power and put them on the spot. They placed Berlin under the mandate of the four major powers and divided Germany. Those who divided Germany have divided the Arab homeland. I hate the word Libyan. Call me whatever you like, but do not call me Libyan. The word Libyan is the same as Mauritanian, Qatari, Iraqi — particularly since the word Libyan was created by the Italians; they called us Libyans. They gave us another identity, not an Arab one. We are not Libyans; my father, grandfather, and grandmother were not Libyans. Libyans are Arabs. [passage omitted]

The other point is the desert, which separates Arabs from Africans. The Arab homeland may be joined with other areas, but not through Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. Beyond that is desert, and the desert will be of no value if this need — the need for the Arabs and Africans to come together — is not stressed. We should remove the enmity which the West has planted in the minds of black Africans toward their Arab brothers. The desert will act as a barrier. You know that both France and the United States are in Chad. There should be a wall preventing both the French and the Americans from reaching Libya.

This is southern Algeria; this is southern Libya; this area here is southeast Mauritania. As long as there is no water near here, there is no need to forge links with this region. On the contrary, it should be made a barrier to protect the Arab homeland until the latter grows strong. Naturally, this does not prevent us from extending a helping hand to our brothers in Africa. We mean the colonialists, who may be in the African countries and who apply pressure on the Arab homeland from the south, just as they are doing from the north and through the Israelis from the northeast.

One problem will remain — the problem of the Tibesti area. This is the only area located right in the heart of the great Sahara. The Tibesti will always remain a problem. Why? Because when you separate Libya from Chad, Algeria from Niger, and Libya from Niger, you may find a desert — the great Sahara — separating them until we reach the Niger River — here it is on the map — and the Chari River in Chad and Lake Chad, where summer rain falls. The rest of the area is desert and nothing but desert until you reach the Arab countries to the north. This desert can remain a barrier. However, right in the heart of the Sahara we see Tibesti — here it is on the map. In fact, Tibesti is not Arab so that we can say it could join Libya. However, it is not African right in deepest Africa — in the rainy area beyond the Sahara. Tibesti is situated in the middle of the great Sahara. It will remain a problem that you should solve — to join Libya or disappear totally. All such solutions are possible. It will remain a problem, just like Ethiopia as far as the Arabs are concerned.

Colonialism is trying to implant enmity but we want unity — Ethiopia to unite with the Arabs, and the people of Tibesti to

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unite with the Libyans. This is the peaceful and appropriate solution that benefits both sides. Otherwise the desert barrier should be extended to prevent its exploitation.

We said that without a miracle, the future of the Arab nation will be in jeopardy. What miracle will make us breathe easy and lead us to believe that we have saved our very being? The miracle will not happen just like that; it is a scientific miracle requiring concentrated Arab efforts. I mean financial and human investment. It requires willpower. This may produce the miracle — the control of an energy source — solar or atomic energy. Oil is also considered energy, but it is limited. Solar and atomic energy, though, are permanent; the sun and the atom. The miracle will happen if we succeed one day and overcome the problem of harnessing solar or atomic energy.

This will lead to the desalination of seawater, making the sea a source of life. For your information, the desalination process has made little progress in the world, as the industrial states are the ones engaged in its research, and they have no need to purify seawater. They have fresh water resources — rivers, rain, and snow. Thus, no one is working to convert seawater into fresh water for use in agriculture. Because we are ignorant, we think that it is impossible to turn seawater into fresh water except with the known limitations by using the hydroelectric stations we buy from Europe. There is a desalination plant in Ajdabiya for the townspeople. However, they moved there without any planning. There is also a desalination plant in Tobruk, where there is no water and it is exposed to rain. There are small desalination plants in Zuwarah, Surt, and so on. These plants are power stations built on the seashore; they desalinate seawater in quantities sufficient for drinking — small quantities for drinking but at high cost. [passage omitted]

The miracle will occur when we control solar and atomic energy. Consequently, a great effort should be made in education, investment, and everything else in the Arab homeland to achieve the control of atomic and solar energy. We can provide infinite possibilities for creating a source of life in the Arab homeland by utilizing the atom. This also applies to solar energy.

My aim is to progress toward the sea as long as there is no rain and no snow. One must move toward the sea: the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Gulf, as well as the Arabian Sea in the Arabian peninsula. These must all be looked upon as sources of life. However, one must control the energy we use in order to exploit this seawater.

All the sciences, knowledge, and programs followed in the Arab homeland seem absurd as long as the homeland is in this bad situation, with a worsening future yet with these possibilities that can be exploited to save this homeland from darkness. How can all the studies, research, and efforts be channeled to realize this miracle: the control of energy?

These are (?not) marginal issues. Atomic energy is (?something) they use to intimidate us even more. You must not make atomic energy. It is forbidden to run electricity from it. You must not make the atom bomb. They make atom bombs daily; why should we not do likewise? The Arabs must possess the atomic bomb to defend themselves until their numbers reach one billion, until

they learn to desalinate seawater, and until they liberate Palestine. We undertake not to drop the atomic bomb on any state around us, but we must possess it. [passage indistinct] The hell with them and with their peace and (?alliance)! They say: You are criminals, warmongers, and terrorists. [passage indistinct]

When I spoke to the Chinese leader about industry, I asked him how China, which is poor, had managed to attain the atomic bomb. China is very poor. However, the Chinese today, who can only afford a donkey, are respected by the American, who flies F-111's because he cannot [words indistinct]. The Arab rides in a Cadillac, yet the American comes along and spits at him and beats him with whatever is handy. What about this? The Chinese who rides a donkey is respected because his nation is (?strong) and possesses the H-bomb. When I asked the Chinese leader why, he replied: We do not want to develop the atomic bomb, nor do we want atom bombs. I know my country is poor, but we want to show those who possess nuclear weapons that if there is a game using atomic bombs, China can play it. Therefore, they should respect China. (?If they were to use atom bombs) on China, half the country would be killed. We wanted to show them that if they are going to play games with this weapon, they cannot play it against China.

The Arabs should adopt the same logic. If there is going to be a game using atomic bombs, then it should not be played against the Arab nation. The Arabs should have it, but we undertake not to drop it on anyone. However, if someone is going to drop one on us, or if someone is going to threaten our existence and independence even without the use of an atomic weapon, then we should drop it on them. This is an essential defensive weapon. We should destroy the myth and fear of talking about the atom bomb. If you talk about an atom bomb for military purposes, you automatically become a criminal. They themselves are building bombs every day; they develop bombs and arm outer space. But when it comes to us, they say: You must keep silent; you must not speak. They have even organized a concentrated propaganda campaign against a power station. How dare you build an atomic power station?! They (?opposed it); they (?fought against) Libya having one. They put Libya 4-6 years away from having one. Why? They said that it was because an atomic power station built with Soviet cooperation might lead to the manufacture of an atom bomb. They (?started) to increase the pressure. Why do the Arabs not possess the right to build an atom bomb?

We should be like the Chinese — poor and riding donkeys but respected and possessing an atomic bomb. Then they will not be able to fool anyone with this weapon. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Interview on Mideast Issues Cited LD250934 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0746 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Jun (KUNA) — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi praised Kuwait's balanced policy and said that this stems from sound Kuwaiti convictions. He reaffirmed Kuwait's right to take whatever measures it deems appropriate, free from any pressure, to protect its interests, installations, and oil tankers. He said that he had submitted protests to Iran more than once because it had attacked Kuwaiti targets and had harassed Saudi Arabian tankers.

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In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* published here today, Col al-Qadhdhafi asserted his opposition to the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and added that he is determined to make every effort to end this conflict. This is because it is a war that exhausts the energies of the two combatants and inflicts heavy losses on them. The ones who benefit from the conflict, he stated, are Zionism and imperialism, since Zionism aims to eliminate both the Iraqi and Iranian forces. The Libyan leader expressed hope that the war would not be expanded. He affirmed: We should work to confine its scope and to end it.

He pointed out that there is a certain wing, a fifth column within the Iranian revolution in addition to the agents of Israel and the United States. Al-Qadhdhafi stated: The United States and Israel want this war to continue. We are not surprised to see Israel supply Iran with weapons to encourage the conflict's continuation. The Americans do the same, but this is not out of love for Iraq and Iran; they hate both Iran and Iraq and want to destroy their armies. The United States and Israel seek to destroy Iraq's military, which is the strongest Arab force, and eliminate the Iraqi Army, Iraqi oil, and Iraqi energy. The Israelis encourage the war's continuation to waste Gulf energies.

Col al-Qadhdhafi expressed his belief that the war benefited Iraq with regard to experience. He declared: "I consider its rulers to be more realistic and more responsible than other Arab leaders."

He affirmed his support for Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and expressed his readiness to exert greater efforts to achieve this. Unifying Syria and Iraq is a pan-Arab duty.

The Libyan leader revealed that next November the establishment of a federal state between the Libyan Jamahiriyyah and Algeria will be declared. This federation will possess a unified federal leadership and institutions. After a few years, the arrangement may develop into a comprehensive federal experiment.

He did not rule out Syria's joining this union, since Syria is targeted by Israel and colonialism. If Syria falls, there will be no obstacle to colonialist and Zionist regional advances. Syria represents the strongest military force after Iraq.

Col al-Qadhdhafi referred to Libyan-Egyptian relations, stating: "First of all, we oppose the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations, as well as the Camp David agreement. This agreement has done great harm to the Arab world and has squandered 20 years of Jamal 'abd al-Nasir's efforts in Africa in support of Arab issues. The Egyptian regime canceled out these efforts by signing the Camp David accords. Nonetheless, we stand with Egypt in the face of any Israeli threat."

He added that he had personally written a message to President Husni Mubarak 2 years ago in which he reaffirmed that "Libya represents Egypt's strategic depth. Libya's military strength and Libyan capabilities are at your disposal should you be confronted by an Israeli military threat."

Col al-Qadhdhafi expressed his belief that what was achieved in unifying the Palestinian detachments at the PNC meeting in Algiers is a positive factor that should not be compromised. He stated: We are continuing our efforts to achieve Palestinian national unity as there are still several forces not included in this unity.

The Libyan leader then discussed the camps war in Lebanon and declared: We regard the camps war in Lebanon as a crime. Whoever fights against the Palestinian camps is an agent of Zionism and fights on Israel's behalf. What pride can an Arab take in fighting against the inhabitants of Palestinian camps and in destroying these camps? This is an action that serves Israel's plan for annihilating, disarming, and weakening the Palestinian people. It is very painful to see Arabs fighting against the Palestinian camps.

Col al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that from time to time Palestinian officials visit Libya, including [PLO Executive Committee member] Khalil al-Wazir; Abu Jihad, the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department; and others. Dialogue and discussions then take place between them.

He stated: What concerns us in the first place is Palestinian unity and to see their alliance with Syria restored, and after this, to see Palestinian-Libyan relations develop.

In reply to a question on whether Syria alone can face Israel, despite its capabilities and weapons, Col al-Qadhdhafi replied: War against Israel is an pan-Arab responsibility. Syria alone cannot fight Israel unless an end is put to Arab differences and unity of the Arab ranks is achieved. As Israel receives support and backing from the United States, we must strike at U.S. interests in the region. This is the responsibility of the Arab masses.

He added: The United States is a bitter enemy of the Arabs, and its presence in the region is a danger to the Arab nation. This is because the United States wants to enable Israel to control the Arab east: The United States wants to dominate the entire Arab homeland, from the Strait of Hormuz, through the Suez Canal, to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean coast.

Responding to a question on the possibility of counting on the USSR in the event of a break in relations or a strike at U.S. interests in the region, the Libyan leader stated: It is necessary to rely on ourselves. First, the Soviet Union is a friendly state; it is an Arab ally and it is hostile to the United States. As the old saying goes: An enemy of my enemy is my friend.

He added: We should not forget that the Soviet Union holds positive stances on Arab issues at the Security Council and the United Nations. There is no harm in consolidating relations with it on strategic bases, and relations of interests based on mutual respect. It is not necessary for us to be communists to deal with the Soviet Union, contrary to what the United States demands from others.

Col al-Qadhdhafi then spoke about relations with Britain and its views concerning the Arab nation. He stated: Britain harbors

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concealed hatred toward the Arabs. It is a crusader state. In the Thatcher era, Britain is regarded as a tool of the United States, particularly against the Soviet Union, the Arabs, and Palestine, since Thatcher was the first British prime minister to visit Israel. This is a challenge to all Arabs.

As for France, he said that relations with that nation "are there for establishing understanding. Relations with France are not poor as some might think. The only bad thing about France is that it maintains and wants to reinforce the old ugly military face of colonialism. It deals with others in the language of military bases. We oppose France and adopt a hostile attitude toward it because it is a colonialist state in Africa, but its policy differs from that of America. It does not submit to America as some other states do."

The Libyan leader pointed out that he would attend the Arab summit conference in Riyadh if it is held. He declared: We have begun contacts with the brothers — the rulers of the Arab states — and have reaffirmed the necessity of convening this summit conference in the 9th month of 1987.